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SOUTH VIETNAM: There is growing concern in Saigon about the situation on the battlefield as well as over rumors of a peace agreement arranged by the great powers.

The Saigon press was expressing alarm over Communist advances in the northern provinces even before the fall of Quang Tri City. Now that it has fallen, President Thieu is worried about the political and psychological consequences, and because he is skeptical about the chances for organizing an effective defense line north of Hue, he probably anticipates further blows to South Vietnamese morale.

The reopening of the Paris talks and Dr. Kissinger's visit to Moscow have fed speculation over new peace initiatives. Several Saigon papers are discussing the possibility that the US and the Soviet Union have reached a secret agreement on Vietnam. South Vietnamese Foreign Ministry officials told US Embassy officers that the very existence of rumors about US plans to arrange a cease-fire had tended to damage South Vietnamese morale.

Some of the cease-fire rumors reportedly are coming from the followers of Big Minh, who are apparently trying to exploit the situation by seeking new support for Thieu's erstwhile political opponent. Members of Big Minh's group are said to be telling political and religious figures throughout the country that a halt in the fighting will be arranged during President Nixon's visit to Moscow. The Minh camp claims that in such a situation the Thieu regime must fall and implies that it should be replaced by a government headed by Big Minh, which for the first time would be truly representative of the whole population.



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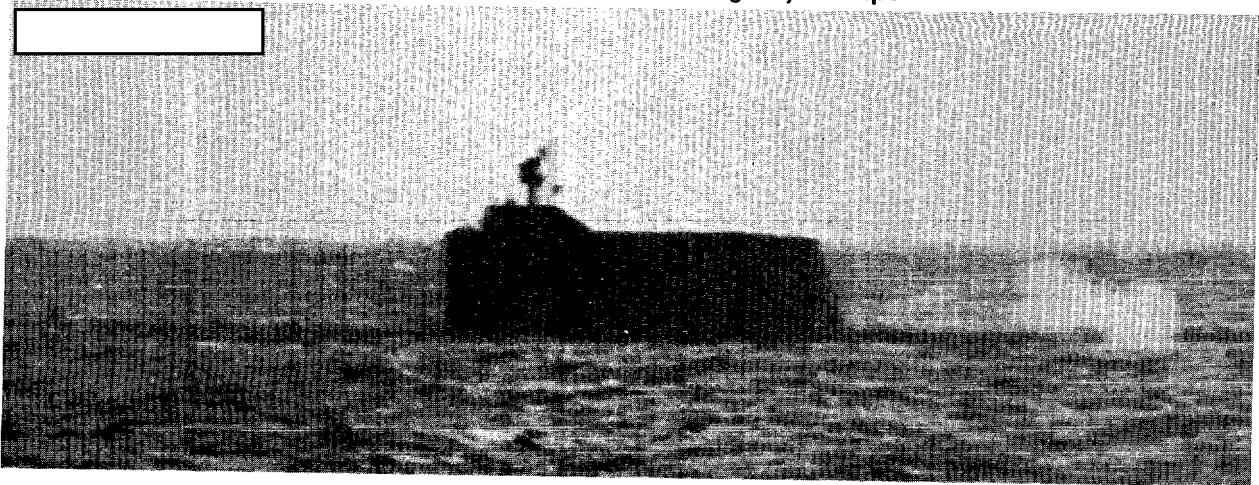
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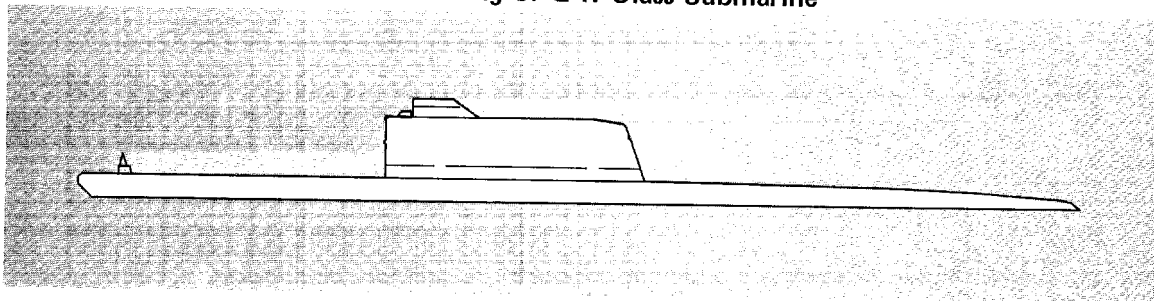
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G-II Class Submarine Entering Bay of Nipe



Line Drawing of G-II Class Submarine



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USSR-CUBA: The first Soviet ballistic missile submarine to visit a foreign country has arrived in Cuba.

The submarine, a G-II class diesel unit, was escorted into the Bay of Nipe by a Soviet Kotlin-class destroyer on 29 April. This raises the current Soviet naval presence in Cuba to six ships, including the destroyer, a diesel attack submarine, a submarine tender, and two tankers. The tender recently arrived in Cuba, but the destroyer, accompanied by an F-class diesel attack submarine, went to Cuba two months ago. The F-class was in Mariel when the destroyer escorted the ballistic missile submarine into the anchorage.

A G-II class submarine is designed to launch three SS-N-5 ballistic missiles to a range of 700 nm from a submerged position. [REDACTED]

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